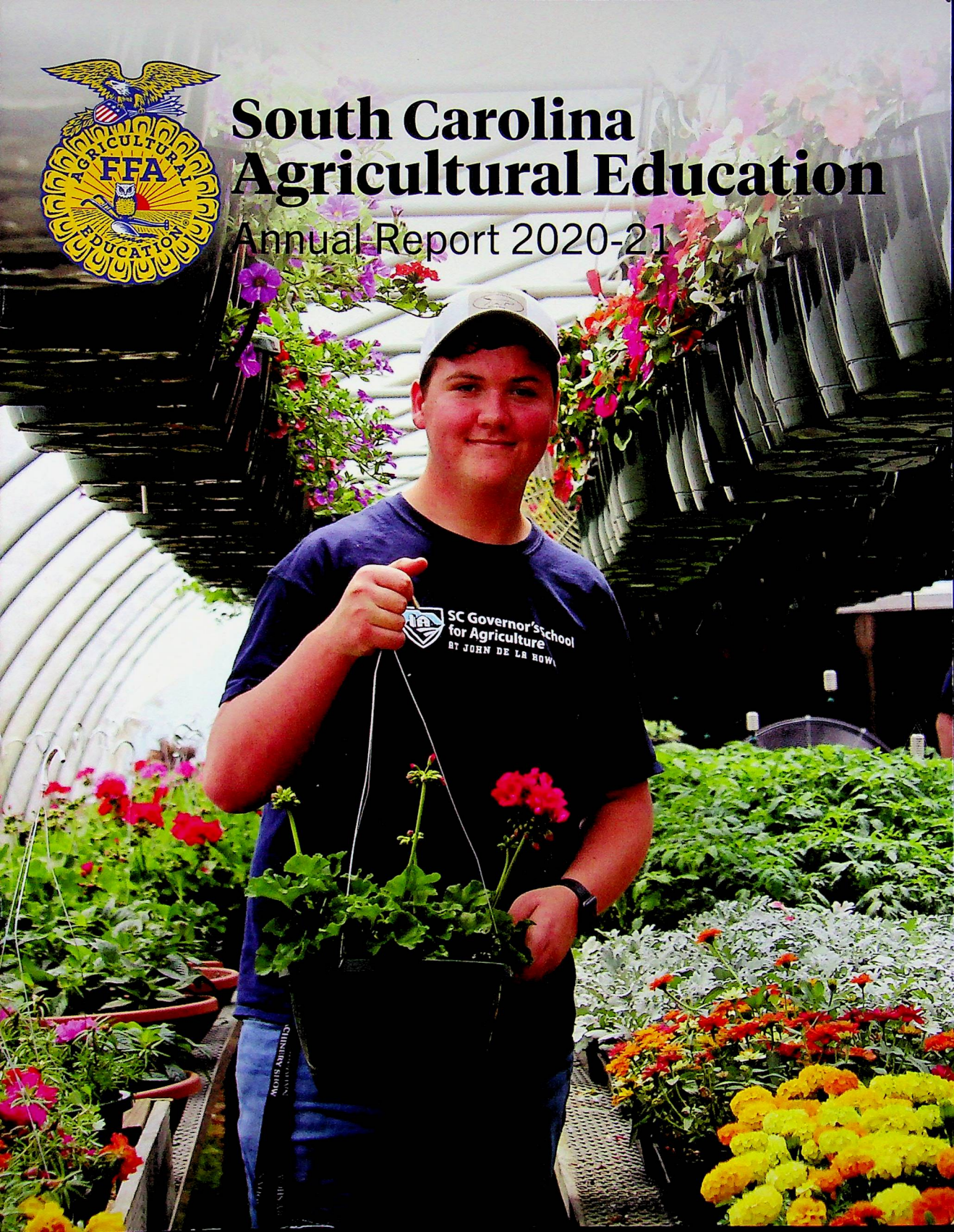
South Carolina Agricultural Education

Annual Report 2020-21



2020-20 LEADERSHIP

State FFA Officers
Gracie Helms - President, Pageland
Gunnar Black - Secretary, York
Adisyn Lyles - Vice President, Westminster
Ashlyn Patterson - Vice President, Seneca
Victoria Gillis - Vice President, Lexington
Lee Padget - Vice President, Leesville

FFA Board of Directors
Nate Bellamy - Chairman, Loris
Ben Gibson, Summerville
Ashley Granata, Pickens
Christina Addis, Seneca
Kevin Sox, Chapin
Jimmy Roberts, Aynor
Derrick Cooper, Gilbert
Dr. Curtis White, Seneca
Troy Helms, Lancaster

State Farmer and Agribusiness Association
Thad Wimberly - President, Branchville Chapter
Scott Bodie - President Elect, Laurens Chapter
David Simmons - Past President, Ridge Spring-Monetta Chapter
Edwin Terry - Region I VP, Woodmont Chapter
Tim McSwain - Region II VP, Blackstock Chapter
J.T. Tolson - Region III VP, Lee County Chapter
Mike Ulmer - Region IV VP, Colleton-Bamberg & Barnwell Chapter

State Agricultural Educators Officers
Ben Gibson - President Elect, Summerville
Nate Bellamy - Past President, Loris
Ashley Granata - President-Elect, Pickens
Clair Hammonds - Treasurer, Loris
Beth Ann Melton - Secretary, Battery Creek
Elizabeth Morton - Vice President, Spartanburg
Henderson Rowe - Vice President, Ninety Six
Tyler Outen - Vice President, Latta
Ethan Busbee - Vice President, Wagener

Associate Vice Presidents
Josh McCall, Walhalla
Lee Petitgout, Ft. Mill
Cody Floyd, Georgetown
Katie Bell, Charleston

Clemson University Agricultural Education Staff
William E. Keels - State Director, Columbia
Jillian Lash - Executive Director SC FFA, Pendleton
Troy Helms - Associate State Director, Lancaster
Frank Saldana - Associate State Director, North Myrtle Beach
Jason Gore - FFA / 4H Program Coordinator, Pendleton
Brenda Baldwin / Jennifer Lyda - Administrative Assistant, Columbia

SC FFA Leadership Center
Megan Stevens - Program Director, North Myrtle Beach

FROM OUR STATE DIRECTOR

Agricultural education in South Carolina experienced another "interesting" year. The COVID-19 pandemic continued to wreak havoc on many planned activities, but in typical Agricultural Education fashion, activities went on and our students were provided activities to participate in to enhance their educational experience.

2020-21 will ever go down in history as the year that the SC Governor's School for Agriculture opened its doors to serve the students of South Carolina. The unique 1,800-acre campus at the John de la Howe school began serving students from across the state, many of whom come from areas where the students have no other opportunity to enroll in agriculture. The campus began on a small scale, due in part to COVID limitations, but began it did. The program is scheduled for continued growth in 2021-22 and has become an exciting integral part of the SC Agricultural Education program that truly is a source of pride.

In addition to the opening of the SC Governor's School for Agriculture, the Agriculture Program in South Carolina also saw continued growth by adding several new agricultural education programs and additional teachers in existing programs, a trend that has occurred on a regular basis for the past few years.

The year was also highlighted by a mixture of virtual and in-person events held. While the SC FFA State Convention and FFA CDE's were forced to be held virtually, the SC FFA Camping program and the Farmer and Agribusiness Summer Tour were held in-person, following strict safety protocols for all attendees.

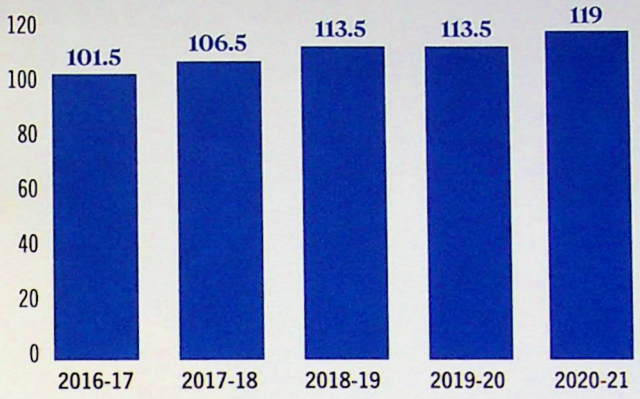
Another noted event that occurred in 2020-21 was the sale of some beach property by the SC FFA Foundation. This sale will translate into additional funds to be used to create programs for FFA members around the state. The work of the SC FFA Foundation and Executive Director Frank Stover Jr., often goes unappreciated but it is their wise management and pursuit of funding for the FFA that our state has enjoyed financial support and stability for so many years.

Truly 2020-21 will go down as another unique year in agricultural education in South Carolina, but it will also be remembered as a successful year.
Despite experiencing another year with limitations placed on it by a pandemic, the year brought historical success and accomplishments.

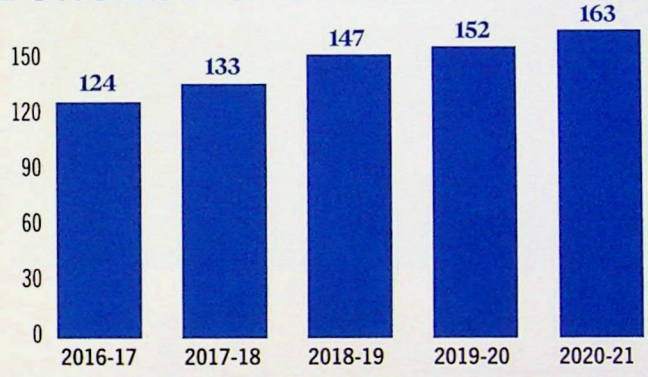
William E. Keels
State Director, Agricultural Education
South Carolina

SC AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

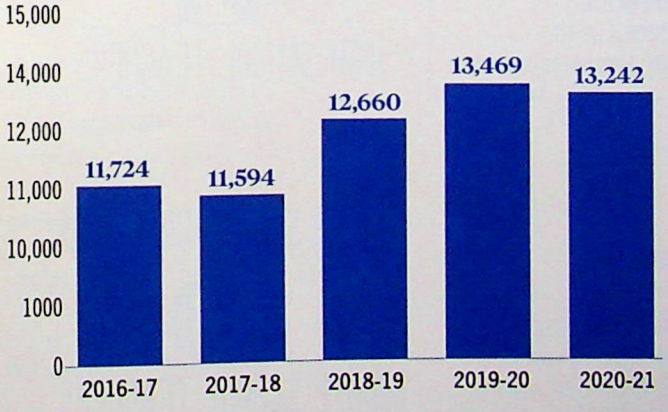
Program Growth



Teacher Growth



Enrollment in SC



Agricultural Education Students Impact on South Carolina's Economy

Every student enrolled in Agricultural Education is required to have a Supervised Agricultural Experience. This program allows students to gain work experience through exploratory, placement or entrepreneurial experiences, gaining them much needed job skills and training. In addition to the career preparation, the students also make quite an impact each year on the economy in South Carolina. In 2020-21, Agricultural Education students generated the following economic impact on our state:

UNPAID HOURS DEDICATED TO SAE'S

577,105

PAID HOURS THROUGH SAE'S

722,069

WAGES EARNED THROUGH SAE'S

$5,351,807

AMOUNT INVESTED BY STUDENTS IN SAE'S

$888,341

AMOUNT EARNED FROM SAE INVESTMENTS

$3,392,143

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Region I

Region I High Schools

Anderson I & II Career and Technology Center
Anderson Institute of Technology
Belton-Honea Path High School
Berea High School
Blue Ridge High School
Crescent High School
Dorman Freshman Campus
Greer High School
H.B. Swofford Career Center
Hillcrest High School
Honea Path Middle School
Landrum High School
Liberty High School
Mauldin High School
Palmetto High School
Pendleton High School
Pickens Co. Career & Technology Ctr.
Pickens High School
RD Anderson Applied Technology Center
SC School for the Deaf and Blind
Seneca High School
Travelers Rest High School
Walhalla High School
West Oak High School
Woodmont High School

Region I Middle Schools

Belton Middle School
Bryson Middle School
Ralph Chandler Middle School
Riverside Middle School
Seneca Middle School
Starr- Iva Middle School
Walhalla Middle School
West Oak Middle School
Woodmont Middle School

Regional Coordinator

Troy Helms
107 South French Street
Lancaster, SC 29720
Fax: 803-286-6650
Cell: (803) 320-1064
E-mail: rthelms@clemson.edu

24
HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

41
HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

10
MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAMS

10
MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHERS

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Region II

Region II High Schools

Abbeville High School
Blythewood High School
Calhoun Falls Charter School
Catawba Ridge High School
Center for Advanced Technical Studies
Cherokee Institute of Innovation
Chester County Career Center
Clinton High School
Clover High School
Dixie High School
Fairfield Career & Technology Center
Floyd D. Johnson Tech Center
Fort Mill High School
Governors School for Agriculture at John de la Howe Heyward Career and Technology Center
Laurens District 55 High School
Nation Ford High School
Newberry Career Center
Ninety-Six High School
Rock Hill ATC
Saluda High School
Strom Thurmond Career Center
Union County Career and Technology Center
Ware Shoals High School
WJ Keenan High School

Regional Coordinator

Troy Helms
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25
HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

37
HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

2
MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAMS

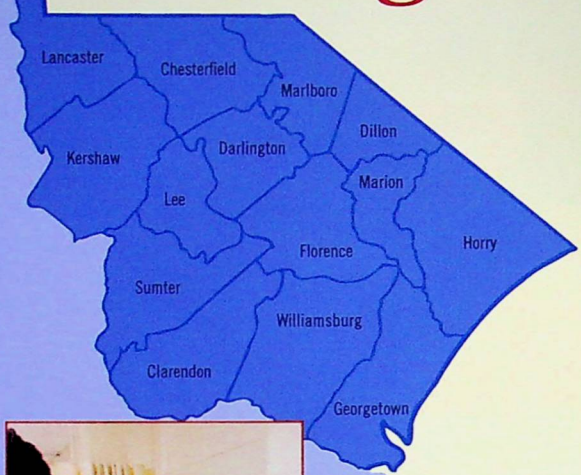
2
MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHERS

Region II Middle Schools

Clover Middle School
York Middle School

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Region III



Region III High Schools

Andrew Jackson High School
Aynor High School
Buford High School
Carolina Forest High School
Carvers Bay High School
Central High School
Cheraw High School
Chesterfield High School
Conway High School
Darlington Co. Institute of Technology
Florence Co. Career Center
Georgetown High School
Green Sea Floyds H.S.
Indian Land High School
Lake View High School
Lakewood High School
Lancaster Co. Career Center*
Latta High School
Lee County Career & Technology Center
Loris High School
Manning High School
Marlboro County High School
McBee High School
North Central High School
Socastee High School
Woolard Technology Center

Region III Middle Schools

Furman Middle School
Manning Middle School
McBee Middle School*

*new program

Regional Coordinator

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1069 FFA Circle Drive
N. Myrtle Beach, SC 29582
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26
HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

33
HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

3
MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAMS

3
MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHERS

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Region IV

Region IV High Schools

Aiken High School
Ashley Ridge High School
Bamberg-Erhardt High School
Barnwell Co. Career Center
Batesburg-Leesville H.S.
Battery Creek High School
Branchville High School
Cane Bay High School
Cross High School
Denmark Olar High School
Dorchester Co. Career & Technology Center
East Cooper Center for Advanced Studies*
Edisto High School
Estill High School
Gilbert High School*
Lexington Technology Center
Lowcountry Leadership Charter School
Midland Valley High School*
Pelion High School
Ridgeland-Hardeeville High
Ridge Spring-Monetta HS
Swansea High School
Thunderbolt Career & Technology Center
Timberland High School
Wagener-Salley High School

Region IV Middle Schools

Cane Middle School*
Pelion Middle School
Ridge Spring-Monetta Middle*
St. George Middle*

**new program*
**additional Ag teacher*

Regional Coordinator

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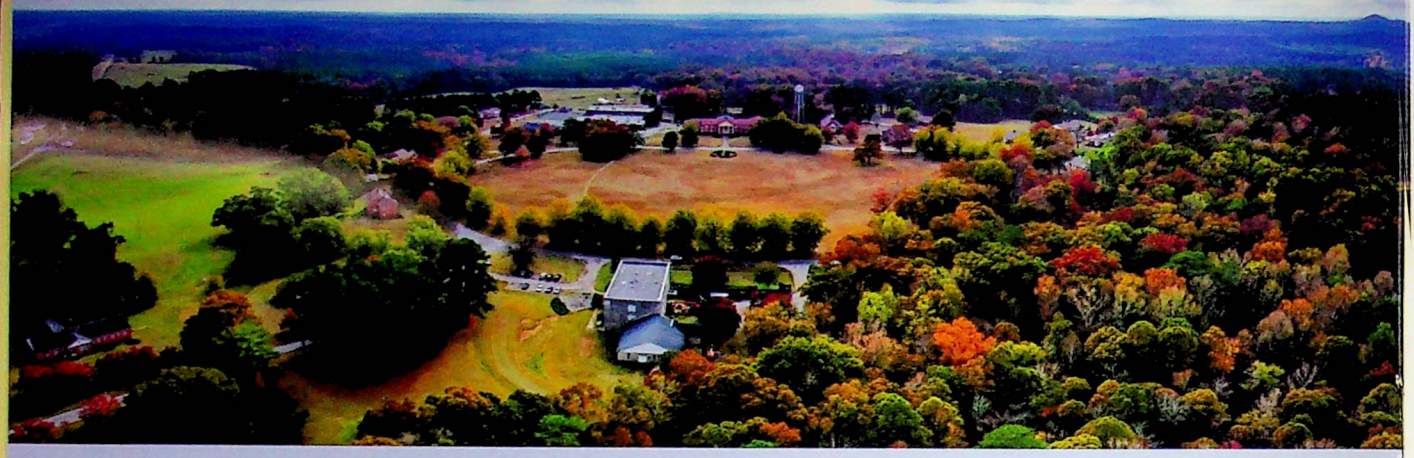
E-mail: jsaldan@clemson.edu

25
HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

33
HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

4
MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM

4
MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER



SC Governor's School for Agriculture Established

Located on 1,310 acres in McCormick, S.C., the John de la Howe School is the oldest educational institution in South Carolina below the college level. Established in 1797 through the will of Dr. John de la Howe, a French physician, just nine years after South Carolina's incorporation as a state. His will provided the establishment of an "agricultural seminary" for 12 poor boys and 12 poor girls – with the provision that they study the basic courses, agriculture, and related subjects. For many years, it was known as the "state's orphanage." This mission continued Dr. de la Howe's desire for children in need to have a home and receive an education in an agricultural setting. In the 1980s, the school served as an alternative school with a mission to offer a haven for children to grow, heal and make lasting changes.

After a state-conducted feasibility study on the effectiveness of agriculture-focused schools in South Carolina and a change in administration, the school now embarks on an entirely new mission as the South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe. In September 2020, South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster signed Enabling Legislation S.613 officially designating the John de la Howe School as the third Governor's School for the state. This is now the only residential high school for agricultural education in the nation. As such, it provides extraordinary opportunities for young South Carolinians to enter their state's largest industry. The SC Governor's School for Agriculture "will go a long way in shaping the future of South Carolina's superior agriculture industry," said Gov. McMaster.

"Becoming the South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture is the pinnacle of several years of work to re-brand our school. The legacy of Dr. John de la Howe will live on in the lives of our current and future students due to this historical legislation," said Tim Keown, president of the SC Governor's School for Agriculture.

This bold new direction comes at a time when agriculture jobs are plentiful, but too few have the skills to enter the industry. The SC Governor's School for Agriculture's mission is to provide a place where students don't just learn about the world in a classroom – they get out and experience it. The school's curriculum offers four agricultural pathways, with experienced teachers to cover each: Agricultural Mechanics & Technology, Environmental & Natural Resources, Horticulture, and Plant & Animal Systems. Academic core course offered are all taught on the honors level and presented through a lens that shows how they relate to agriculture. Additionally, dual enrollment is offered, meaning students can take courses for college credit and also obtain certifications in such critical agricultural skills like artificial insemination and chainsaw use.

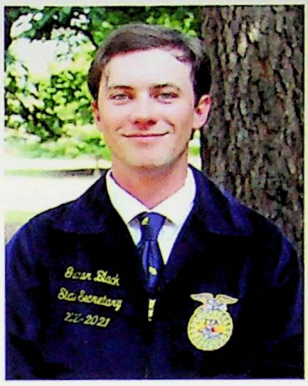
Doubled since its inaugural school year, the SC Governor's School for Agriculture has 61 students from South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia. The spring of 2022 will graduate its first class under this new mission. Admissions applications for the 2022-23 school year are available online at www.delahowe.sc.gov/admissions. Students in grades 10-12 from South Carolina and surrounding states are eligible to apply. Application checklist items include a personal essay, three recommendations, transcripts, attendance and discipline records. Applicants can apply as a residential or day student. Residential students live in on-campus housing and will have the opportunity to fully immerse themselves in the campus atmosphere, farm life and their studies.

The gated campus has spacious residence halls with all the comforts of home and a variety of activities to enrich the student life experience. Students participate in extracurricular events, coined "ag-tivities", such as livestock shows, rodeo events, field trials and shotgun practices. All students are heavily involved in the National FFA Organization and 4-H. Additionally, the school offers clubs such as Astronomy, Student Council, Yearbook and more.

"We've sent a message to our children that it's never too late to be what you have been and it's never too early to start," said Sen. Gerald Malloy, chief sponsor of Enabling Legislation S.613. He predicts graduates will become "leaders here in our great state."

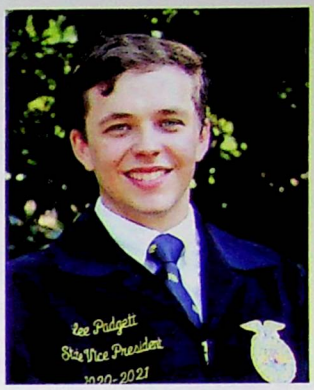
OUR OFFICERS

Gracie Helms (President)
Central FFA Chapter.
Majoring in Pre-Law at the University of South Carolina, Lancaster



Gunnar Black (Secretary)
York FFA Chapter.
Majoring in Agricultural Mechanization and Business at Clemson University

Ashlyn Patterson (V. President)
Seneca FFA Chapter.
Majoring in Animal and Veterinary Science at Clemson University

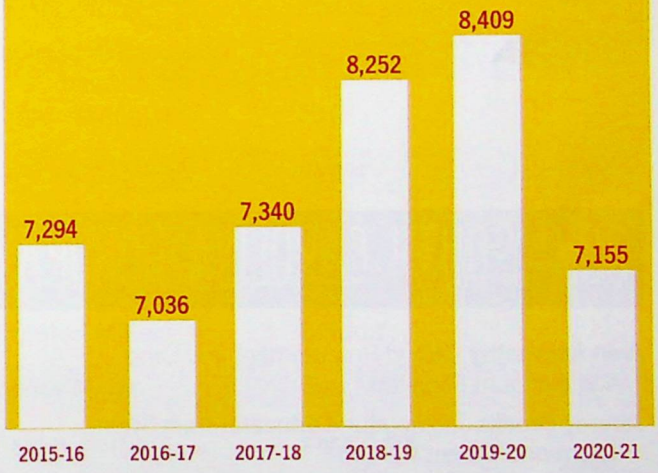


Lee Padgett (V. President)
Pelion FFA Chapter.
Majoring in Agricultural Mechanization and Business at Clemson University

Adisyn Lyles (Vice President)
West-Oak FFA Chapter.
Majoring in Vet Technology at Tri-County Technical College

Victoria Gillis (Vice President)
Lexington Technology Center FFA Chapter. Majoring in Biology at Erskine College

SC FFA MEMBERSHIP REPORT



2021 South Carolina Regional Star Winners

Region 1 Farmer	Hannah Alice Martin	Clinton Chapter
Region 2 Agribusiness	Nathan Clark	Nation Ford Chapter
Region 3 Placement	Bronson Thomas	Buford Chapter
Region 4 Agribusiness Placement	Jordyn Twitty Bryson Shumpert	Barnwell Co. CC Pelion Chapter

2021 South Carolina Honorary American Degree Candidate

Michael Tighe

2021 NATIONAL CHAPTERS

Gold Chapters
Ashley Ridge
Buford
Calhoun Falls
Carvers Bay
Fort Mill
Lexington Technology Center
Loris
Nation Ford
Thurmond
West-Oak
Woodmont Middle
WJ Keenan

Silver Chapters
Barnwell County Career Center
Governor's School of Agriculture
RD Anderson
WTC Kershaw

Bronze Chapters
Aynor
Carolina Forest
Central
Conway

Superior
Abbeville
ACTC
Anderson
Andrew Jackson
Battery Creek
Belton Honea Path
Berea
Blythewood
Bryson Middle
Cheraw
Cherokee County
Chester County
Chesterfield
Clinton
Clover
Colleton County
Crescent
Darlington County Inst. of Technology
Dixie
Dorchester County Career & Technology Center
Gilbert
Green Sea Floyds
Greer
Honea Path Middle
Indian Land
Lake View
Lakewood
Landrum
Latta
Laurens
Lee County Career Center
Lexington Richland 5
Lowcountry Leadership
Manning
McBee
Midland Valley
Newberry County Career Center
North Central
Palmetto
Pelion Middle
Pendleton
Pickens County Career & Technology Center
Ridge Spring-Monetta
Riverside Middle
Saluda
Seneca
Swansea
Travelers Rest
Union County CTC
Wagener-Salley
Walhalla
Ware Shoals
York

2021 SOUTH CAROLINA HONORARY STATE DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Alan Abernathy - Wood Procurement and Land Management Forester

Jeremy Brooks - Agricultural Educator from Strom Thurmond Career Center

Beth Foley - SC Forestry Commission

Ben Gibson - Agricultural Educator at Ashley Ridge High School

Ashley Granata - Agricultural Educator at Pickens County Career & Technology Center

Garrett Howard - Agricultural Educator at Landrumn High School

Angel Malone - CTE Director at the Department of Education

Hunter Massey - Clemson University, Department of of Agricultural Mechanization and Business

Allison Moses - Owner and Operator of Penland Tree Christmas Tree Farm

Martin Moses - Owner and Operator of Penland Tree Christmas Tree Farm

David Taylor - Owner of STEC Equipment.

Beth Tolson - Agricultural Educator at Lee County Career Center

Dennis Way - Financial Manager of the FFA Foundation

2021 Agricultural Proficiency Awards

Proficiency Award Area	Student Name	Chapter Name
Agricultural Education	Veronica Corteville	Laurens
Agricultural Mechanics Design & Fabrication	Colby Gordon Suggs	Aynor
Agricultural Mechanics Repair & Maintenance	Chase Martin	Aynor
AgriScience – Integrated Systems	Kaylie Ortega	Lexington TC
Agricultural Sales	Dakota Roberts	Aynor
Diversified Agriculture Production	Whitner Bobo	BHP
Diversified Crop	Bradley Rabon	Aynor
Diversified Horticulture	Grayson Taylor	Aynor
Diversified Livestock	Mary Jordan	Aynor
Equine Science – Entrepreneurship	Alyssa Vallecillo	BHP
Equine Science – Placement	Lander Harrelson	Aynor
Forage Production	Mason Nobles	Aynor
Forestry Management & Products	Nathan Roberts	Aynor
Fruit Production	Ethan Mitchell	BHP
Goat Production	Kenneth Gasque	Aynor
Landscape Management	Cody Lollis	BHP
Outdoor Recreation	Macie Adams	Aynor
Poultry Production	Quinten Miller	Saluda
Service Learning	Kelley Miller	Fort Mill
Small Animal Production & Care	Ashley Parham	West-Oak
Specialty Animal Production	Samuel Ard	Aynor
Specialty Crop Production	Hampton Spires	Aynor
Turfgrass Management	Brady Anderson	Aynor
Vet Science	Ryan Johnson	Aynor
Wildlife Management	Hunter Richardson	Aynor

DEGREES

2021 State FFA Degrees

Abbeville	Taylor Polatty Savannah Winn
Aiken	Abigail Parker
Andrew Jackson	Mikaela Beacham Jonathan Bowers Thomas A. Dabney III Grace Cecile Hicks Sophie Small
Aynor	Macie Adams Carson Andrew Riley Atkinson Preston Graham Lander Harrelson Alex Holt James Johnson Hunter Richardson Shelley Sellers Hannah Smith Rebecca Stone Grayson Taylor Colby Todd
Barnwell CCC	Truman Brabham Makayla Smoak Jade Stanley Jordyn Twitty James Wall
BHP	Walker Ashley Whitner Bobo Leila Bowen Tristan Craine Christina Knotts Levi Mattison Ethan Mitchell Klaire Rhodes
Blue Ridge	Heidi Morrow Holli Morrow Wyatt Spearman
Buford	Kylie Busbee Bronson Thomas
Calhoun Falls	Gracee Dixon Maddison Smith
Carolina Forest	Jack Barnhill Clayton Burton Emma Dunn Warren Graham Kourtley Hale
Carvers Bay	Preston Andrews
Central	Aiden Cagle Sara Graves Tristen Kakunes Chloe McMillan
Cheraw	Justin Crowley Gavin Tyner
Chester County	Caleb Clinton Randi Roof
Clinton	Hannah Alice Martin Leah Samples
Clover	Madison Adams
Colleton County	Abigail Lee
Conway	Megan McCrea Whitney Mention Elizabeth Mey Benjamin Pardue Lauryn Woodle
Crescent	Emily Wilson
Darlington	Noah Hudson Richard Moore
Dixie	Mauryn Campbell Taylor Flemming
Fort Mill	Emily Anne Broshious Garrett Jones
Gilbert	Samuel Felkel Carson Harmon
Green Sea Floyd	Joshua Gore
Indian Land	Olivia Geese Maya Mazurek Mya Petty
Lake View	Max Edwards Zach Sturgeon
Lakewood	Lacey McKenzie Ali Sanok Ta'Miyah Stephens
Laurens	Hayden McHone Anna Gray Rowland
LR5	Lauren Landis
Lexington TC	Dalton Pearce Riley Rogers
Loris	Toni Cox Bailee Ferich Kaylie Fowler Landon Gerald Matt Graham Justice Grainger Karlie Hucks Brandon Long Reagan Powell Ansley Prince Kade Rhodes Noah Vescovi
Lowcountry Leadership	Jayla Washington
McBee	Madison Simmons Jasmine Kelly Elka Hartley Anna Tarlton Emily Tamburrino Hunter Gilbert
Midland Valley	Gage Busbee Morris Corbin B. Shealy
Nation Ford	Nathan Clark Elizabeth Macaulay
Pelion	Thomas Corley Bryson Shumpert
Pendleton	Madison Bellville Reagan Head Howard Jennings
Pickens Co CTC	Brooke Crawford Sidney Looper Davida Lunsford Shannon Waters
RD Anderson	Martha Alerre
Saluda	Amber Epting Quinten Miller Savannah Rodgers
Seneca	Makenzie Martin Carson Towe
Socastee	Ethan Brekke Lake Jones Allen Ledford
Thurmond	Blakelyn Crytzer
Wagener-Salley	Olivia Anderson Raney Burnett Caleb Neeley Brenna Nunn Joshua Reid Raquavious Tyler
Walhalla	Katlyn Fortson Briar Leonard
Ware Shoals	Brandon Davenport Scarlett Deshields Sophie Traynham
West Oak	Clarissa Chapman Gracie Herring Eli Holbrooks Allison Holcombe Caitlyn Krout Kaylen Ryan Ryan Singleton
WJ Keenan	Breona Flemming Jenna Wilson
WTC Kershaw	Madison Reid
York	Madison Hope Sherer

2021 American FFA Degree Candidates

Sabrina Stein - Aiken
Virginia Kackley - Ashley Ridge
Haley Britt - Aynor
Blane Butler - Aynor
Thomas Gasque - Aynor
Lucas Damian Graham - Aynor
Chase Martin - Aynor
Bradley Rabon - Aynor
Dakota Roberts - Aynor
Nathan Roberts - Aynor
Gracie Helms - Central
Gabrielle McCarthy - Fort Mill
Kylie Cathcart - LR5
Katie Silver - Nation Ford
Abbey Huff - Pickens Co. CTC
Shyann Oglesby - Pickens Co. CTC

SC Camps Reopens for Campers

The South Carolina FFA Camp has drawn thousands of young people and teachers to its gates since 1956. For the first time in the history of the camp, it was closed in March 2020 and did not reopen until June 2021 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

FFA camps are steeped in ritual. For over 65 years campers have attended FFA Camp, the same camp that was attended by their advisors, and in many cases, their parents. It was now their turn to experience, what is almost considered a "rite of passage" for FFA members in South Carolina.

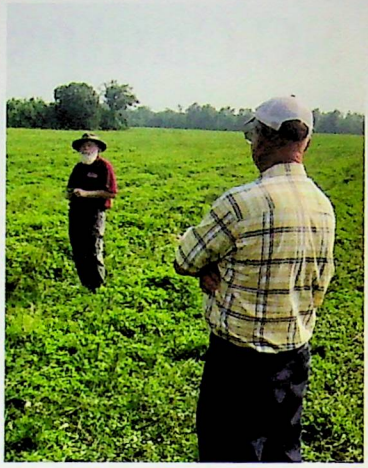
When FFA camps are in full swing they give members the opportunity to make new friends, engage in team-building activities and hone their leadership skills – not to mention create memories that will last a lifetime.

Unfortunately, along with so many other activities, the COVID 19 Pandemic caused the FFA Camp to be closed for the summer of 2020 to ensure the utmost safety of our state's FFA members and advisors. However, 2021 brought the reopening of FFA Camp, which made it possible to once again spend time outdoors, take turns on the high and low ropes courses, complete an obstacle course, play putt-putt golf and volleyball, as well as enjoy water activities like swimming, fishing and kayaking. Precautions were taken to ensure the safety of all students attending, to include operating at one-third capacity to ensure appropriate distancing, having a nurse on site to monitor for symptoms and temperature and requiring all students to be tested for the COVID virus prior to attending.

Students and advisors alike were all thrilled to be back at the FFA Camp in 2021 as once again memories were made and an honored tradition was continued.

FARMER AND AGRIBUSINESS ASSOCIATION

SC Farmer and Agribusiness Association Tours Orangeburg County

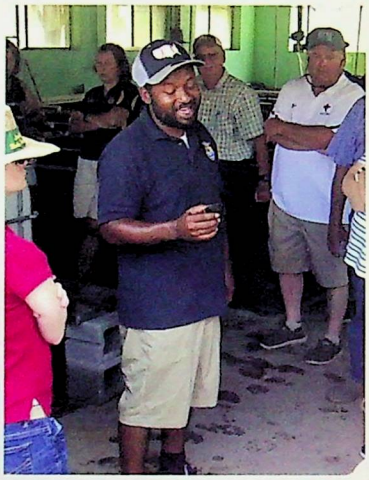


A great crowd of over 150 SC Farmer and Agribusiness members, advisors, sponsors and their families arrived in Orangeburg County for the Annual SC Farmer and Agribusiness Association Summer Farm Tour. The Orangeburg County Farmer and Agribusiness Chapter planned the tour and welcomed visitors to their county on July 23-24. Members of the Orangeburg County Farmer and Agribusiness Chapter did a wonderful job planning the Summer Tour while facing the challenges presented by COVID-19. They are to be commended for their hard work in offering an in-person summer tour for the members.

The Friday tour stops included Palmetto Malt Company, a Nuisance Wildlife Seminar conducted by Parker Johnson with Clemson Extension and an overview of the SC State University 1890 Research and Demonstration Farm, followed by a meal at the 1890 Research and Demonstration Farm sponsored by the SC State University 1890 Research and Extension. Greetings were brought to the attendees from representatives of SC State University and the meal sponsors.

The Saturday tour stops included a tour of Carolina Peanut, Calhoun Gin, and US Fish and Wildlife Service Fish Hatchery. The tour concluded with lunch provided by the Branchville Young Farmer Chapter and greetings brought by Thad Wimberly, SC Farmer and Agribusiness Association president.

The Orangeburg County Summer Tour was educational, well planned, family friendly and will be remembered by all who attended. The tour highlighted the diversity of Agriculture in and around Orangeburg, S.C.



SC Farmer and Agribusiness Association Officers

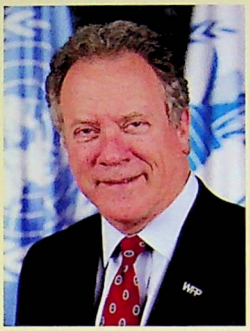
Thad Wimberly- President, Branchville Chapter
Scott Bodie- President Elect, Laurens Chapter
Edwin Terry- Region I VP, Woodmont Chapter
Tim McSwain- Region II VP, Blackstock Chapter
J.T. Tolson- Region III VP, Lee County Chapter
Mike Ulmer- Region IV VP, Colleton, Bamberg and Barnwell Chapter
David Simmons- Past President, Turbeville

2020-21
827 Members and 68 Chapters

Learning is a Life-long Process

SC Agricultural Education believes that learning is a life-long process. As a result, each program in the state that has a teacher on extended contract is required to conduct adult education programs. In the process of providing adult education, the Young Farmers of America Association was born. The association allowed teachers to organize adults in the community and more easily provide ongoing education. The Young Farmers of America has evolved to become the SC Farmer and Agribusiness Association, as it is known today.

Beasley is Recipient of Parris Agricultural Leadership Award



David M. Beasley, executive director of the World Food Program of the United Nations and former Governor of South Carolina, has been named recipient of the John W. Parris Agricultural Leadership Award by the SC Association of Agricultural Educators.

Mr. Beasley, a native of Lamar, SC, was elected Governor of South Carolina in 1994 and guided the state during years of economic transformation, helping reshape the state's economy into a healthy, diverse and robust market.

Mr. Beasley was appointed executive director of the World Food Program of the United Nations in 2017. The World Food Program is the food assistance branch of the United Nations. For his work with the World Food Program, he received Nobel Peace Prize in 2020.

The John W. Parris Agricultural Leadership Award was established several years ago by the SC Association of Agricultural Educators in honor of Mr. Parris of Columbia, SC. A graduate of Clemson University, Mr. Parris is a nationally recognized agricultural leader and conservation visionary with more than 60 years of professional service.

Posipanko Wins Clark Woods Distinguished Teacher Award

Gayle Posipanko was named the recipient of the 2021 SCAAE Clark Woods Distinguished Teacher Award during the 2021 SC Association of Agricultural Educators Summer Conference. Posipanko is beginning her 40th year as an educator with 6 of those years as an administrator. Posipanko began her teaching career in her home state of Virginia.

During her time in the classroom, Posipanko has trained award winning career development event teams, had numerous students recognized at the local and state level, and has multiple recognitions as a National Chapter Award winner. In addition, Posipanko has received numerous state and national teaching awards, including being the first of two SC CATE Teachers to achieve National Board Certification.

The Clark Woods Distinguished Teacher Award is named for the late Clark Woods, Agricultural Educator at Hillcrest High School. The award is presented based on voting by Agricultural Educators across South Carolina.

2021 SCAAE Award Winners

NAAE Star State Teacher Scholarship – Brooke Hall
30 Minute Award – Josh McCall and Libby Templeton
Outstanding Early Career Educator of the Year – Scott Tager, Lexington Technology Center
Outstanding Educator of the Year – Blake Berry, Pendleton High School
Outstanding Program of the Year – Aynor High School
Outstanding Post-Secondary Program of the Year – Laurens County Young Farmers
John W. Parris Agricultural Leadership Award – Hon. David Beasley
Clark Wood Distinguished Teacher Award – Gayle Posipanko, Buford High School

Teacher of Teachers
Frank Stover Jr. – Brooke Hall
Blake Berry – Joey McCannon, Katie Martin, Hunter Morton
Tom Wilingham – Audrey Cutlim
Robert Bollier – Grant Hall
Derrick Cooper – Kassidy Roof

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Clemson Extension helps improve the quality of life of all South Carolinians by providing unbiased, research-based information through an array of public outreach programs in youth development; agribusiness; agriculture; food, nutrition and health; and natural resources. With offices in all 46 counties of the state, Extension works to help support South Carolina's $42 billion agriculture and forestry industries; strengthen families and communities; improve stewardship of natural resources and the environment; strengthen connections between people and their food; and expose South Carolina youth to opportunities in agriculture, science, technology, engineering and math.

- 4-H Youth Development
- Forestry & Wildlife
- Agribusiness
- Horticulture
- Agricultural Education
- Livestock & Forages
- Agronomic Crops
- Rural Health
- EFNEP
- Water Resources
- Food Systems & Safety